Submission by Shri Cyriac John regarding the plight of pepper growers

Shri Cyriac John through a submission stated that the Centre's reported decision to import pepper had come as a rude shock to the farmers who were already affected by the imports of coconut oil, rubber, cocoa etc. He wanted the State Government to request the Centre to refrain from this step in the interest of the pepper growers in the State.

The Minister of Agriculture and Social Welfare replying stated that the statement of the Union Minister of State for Agriculture that the Centre proposed to introduce no change in the import policy caused concern among the pepper farmers in the State. She said that there was no necessity of import of pepper while the State had fulfilled its production target fixed for last year. The Central Government was adopting a discouraging policy by more import, to help some big-wigs in the field. As a result, the price of pepper had fallen down. She wanted the problem to be viewed above political consideration. She requested the Centre to allow the Government and the cultivators in the State to implement the perspective included in the Sixth Plan.

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS TO RULES

(i) *Amendment to Notification G. O. (P) No. 426|79|Fin dated April 24, 1979 (SRO No. 508|79) containing amendments to KSR.*

Shri K. Chandrasekharan moved: Add at the end of the proposed Rule 30: "provided that no such recovery can be made unless notice of the claim had been given to the officer before his retirement and provided further that no such recovery can be made if the excess payment happens to be on account of cancellation or variation of any Government or Departmental order passed after the date of the officer's retirement." He said that the present amendment to the Kerala Service Rules would cause more difficulties to the officer. The amendment proposed by Government would enable the Government to recover the excess amount, if any, drawn by an Officer by mistake within four years before his retirement. This amount could be recovered in instalments at any time even after his retirement when the overdrawal is found out. Such a provision was there in the Kerala Civil Services Classification, Control and Appeal Rules also. Later an amendment had been brought in to the rules in the light of the High Court's decision that disciplinary proceedings should have been taken against an Officer before his retirement date in order to make the recovery of the excess amount he had drawn.

The Minister of Finance and Law (Shri K. M. Mani) replied. He said that there was nothing unconstitutional in the amendment. Explaining the circumstances which led the Government to bring in such an amendment, he said that in the notification issued it was specifically mentioned that excess payments made by mistake within four years before retirement could be

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recovered in instalments from the monthly pension of the officer and it should not exceed 10% of the monthly pension. Taking such a decision, Government have provided enough safeguards to the retired officer.

The amendment was lost.

Amendment to notification G. O. (P) 11|81|TF and PD dated 11-1-1981 (S. R. O. No. 200|81) containing Kerala Fishermen Welfare Societies (Preparation and publication of list of Fishermen) Rules, 1980

Shri K. Chandrasekharan moved: In rule 3 (12), for the words "A summary enquiry", insert the words "an enquiry".

The Minister of Revenue and Fisheries did not accept the amendment.

The amendment was lost.

Amendment to notification G. O. (P) 12|81|TF and PD dated 11-1-1981 (S. R. O. No. 201|81) containing Kerala Fishermen Welfare Societies (Determination of Strength of Committees and Conduct of Election) Rules, 1980.

Shri K. Chandrasekharan moved: In Rule 5(8), for the words "such summary enquiry, if any, as he thinks necessary", insert the words "an enquiry".

The Minister of Revenue and Fisheries did not accept the amendment.

The amendment was lost.

V LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

The Agricultural Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1981 as reported by the Subject Committee

The Minister of Finance and Law moved that the Bill as reported by the Subject Committee be taken into consideration.

Shri E. Ramesan Nair wanted the ceiling limit to be enhanced to Rs. 25,000. The Government should not give room for the evasion of tax under the guise of charitable institution or trust. He did not think it necessary to retain the new section 61(A).

Shri T. M. Jacob admitted that the amendment bill would give some relief to the farmers in the State. But he would advocate for more relief to the farmers who were groaning under the weight of various taxes. He was for exempting the farmers from the agricultural income tax whose holding was 4 hectares of land.

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